

Task for *Growing Up Aboriginal In Australia*

Written personal recount

Context

Social purposes	to inform or entertain by retelling past events/experiences
Subject matter	focus on individual or specific person(s), event(s), place(s)
Roles and relationships between writer and reader	writer to (usually known) reader(s), although sometimes the readers are unknown
Mode	written
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autobiographical accounts • recounts of excursions • personal letters
Generic structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orientation: sets the recount in time and place • series of events: time order, often expressed in terms of cause and effect • re-orientation (optional)
Vocabulary	Can be emotive to describe the events/experiences in the subject matter, e.g. fantastic; destructive
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participants: specific or general • processes: action verbs, mental (thinking) verbs • Past tense (usually)

Language functions	Signals/features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • telling about the past • cause-effect • expressing sequence • expressing time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • past tense verbs e.g. cooked • due to, because of, as a result • first, next, finally • now, later, again, then

Example

“Occasionally an exceptionally large wave can threaten beachgoers. Once when I was 10 years old such a wave, apparently caused by distant geological movements, surged up a beach where we were swimming and then its undertow dragged us out to sea.”